

00395

1961/03/28

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE (SECRET) AND
WHITEHALL (SECRET) (CABINET)
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Whittington

No. 225

March 28, 1961

D. 7.14 a.m. March 28, 1961

R. 7.31 a.m. March 28, 1961

EMERGENCY

TOP SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 225 of

March 28.

Repeated for information to Washington, U.K. Mission New York,
Singapore, Paris, Moscow.

*ft. to West Indies
at Track 32*

Following for Lord Privy Seal from Secretary of State.

West Indies telegram Track No. 4.

I mentioned to Rusk last night proposal in paragraph 5 that General Hull and Admiral Felt should get to work immediately on a limited plan for intervention in Laos without informing other S.E.A.T.O. members. Rusk seemed to have got a rather different impression from the President and felt that nothing at all ought to be done to which other members of S.E.A.T.O. were not a party.

2. I am glad to see the President does not wish to enter on any unlimited commitment for military intervention. On the other hand, the disadvantage of a limited plan, as we have always said, is that it will almost certainly immediately provoke the entry of North Viet Namee and perhaps Chinese troops into Laos without our being there in sufficient force to deal with them. A limited military intervention could, therefore, have the effect of bringing about immediate subjugation of most of Laos by Communist troops. It seems to me to be certain that a limited campaign would have to be fairly rapidly extended to try and save South Laos.

3. Please arrange for this to be passed to West Indies for the Prime Minister.

Foreign Office pass Immediate Washington, Routine U.K. Mission New York, Singapore, Paris, and Moscow as my telegrams Nos. 70, 26, 182, 56 and 26 respectively.

[Repeated as requested]

[Copy sent to Telegram Section C.O. for repetition to West Indies for Prime Minister]

ADVANCE COPIES:

Lord Privy Seal. Sir F. Hoyer Millar
Sir H. Stephenson, Mr. MacDermot
Head of South-East Asia Department. Resident Clerk

EEEEEE

TOP SECRET